GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3315
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
HOT LINE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN
Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to start a new hot-line between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons behind the same;

(d) the amount proposed to be spent on the said hot-line by the Government; and

(e) the time by which this new hot-line is likely to be started?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)to(e) In December 2004, India and Pakistan had agreed to establish a dedicated and secure hotline between the Foreign Secretaries. In the recent India-Pakistan Expert Level Dialogue on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures held in New Delhi (5-6 August 2005), the two sides emphasized the importance of early operationalization of this hotline link through their respective Foreign Offices, to prevent misunderstandings and reduce risks relevant to nuclear issues. In this connection, discussions on related technical parameters were held. Details about implementation and testing schedules were exchanged. It was agreed that the hotline link would be established in September 2005.